

Mono Basin Fire Safe Council Minutes
18 August 2021 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Glenda Bayless, Robbie Di Paolo, Bob Gardner, Duncan King, Amy Lewis, Dave Marquart, Tom Strazdins, Nathan Taylor, John Warneke, Lia Webb

Minutes recorded by John Warneke.

- No public comment
- BLM/Forest Service Firebreak in Mono City
 - Schedule dependent on weather/migratory timing and equipment (Robbie)
 - Floated idea past Ana Maria for a possible agreement with Forest Service for clearing firebreaks if Mono City uses its own equipment
 - She said yes, as similar events happened in past; Would be a minimal paperwork requirement, and possible training (Robbie)
 - Need to secure equipment; Hire someone to do the work; Maintain firebreaks on more regular and consistent basis; Less dependency on FS staff and equipment availability (Robbie)
 - Great idea, with volunteer workforce, and FS allows use of equipment (Tom)
 - Use of FS equipment isn't expected, that's the hang up (Robbie)
 - Chance of rental equipment, and FS training on it? I wouldn't know where to begin for that large of a scale (Nathan)
 - Area behind my house cleared with weed whacker and markers; Larger scale is possible, just takes planning (John)
 - Mono City Fire is looking into getting a skid steer with mower attachment; Intention to mow private lots; Emergency action to clear fuel during fire event (Robbie)
 - To John: Do you have any update on that? Possible for that type of equipment to do this scale of work? FSC secure funds for that type of work? (Robbie)
 - Idea came about watching clearing of the firebreak south of Mono City with a skid steer and brush mower; Attempt at larger scale than what can be accomplished with current brush mower available for all to borrow; Have a few people trained with how to use; Not large scale clearing but emergency clearing of lots and/or clear existing larger amounts of standing brush for defensible space (John)
 - Idea is to mirror what BLM/FS uses; If they can't come out here every year, let's prepare our community to be able to protect our interests
 - Action now is for acquiring equipment; No outreach with Forest Service and BLM; Will update when have more information
 - Is the inability to acquire a chipper mainly a funding issue? Other issue? (Dave)
 - Hang up is about getting the item through busy agendas; Will be on upcoming agenda, with my support; Use chipper to reduce debris in brush bin, and to create mulch on site on lots; Letter previously drafted to drum up shared use and funding support from Lee Vining Fire; If not, Mono City Fire alone has the funds but it's an expensive \$4500 purchase (John)

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- Seems Mono City Fire on parallel track with FSC, but with more progress; Come back with update (Robbie)
- Common spirit of trying to manage firebreaks on more regular basis; What all FSC can do to promote efforts if Forest Service not able to do the work (Robbie)
- Feedback on Fire safety fliers use
 - Digital file sent to Paul to create laminated copies; Will follow up (Robbie)
 - Need more laminated copies; Replaced removed fliers at Lower LV and Moraine campgrounds (Tom)
 - Will check in with businesses to see if being handed out (Tom)
- Banner & truck location
 - No reply from DWP regarding location and lease (Bob)
 - Will scout for other sites (Robbie)
- Brush bin in Mono City
 - Emptied after July FSC meeting (Robbie)
 - Important to understand how frequently bin is emptied and cost; Track over time to showcase efforts of the community to move debris and reduce fire threat; Have numbers for communication and future grant applications; Will talk to Dave Swisher (Robbie)
 - Update on how bin is emptied (John)
 - When full, Dave calls D&S to empty; D&S doesn't provide a timeframe of when that will happen, might be a few days or longer than a week
- SCE gates
 - Paul and Bob following up with Cal Rossi has slowed (Robbie)
 - Passed Paul's email chain on to Cal Rossi, for action (Bob)
 - May be other gates to consider, i.e., locked gate south of former location of Cunningham house; Could pass on info to Cal Rossi (Robbie)
 - Will look into who owns the land (Bob)
- CA Fire Safe Council county position
 - Mono and Inyo counties applied (Bob)
 - 15 September deadline, with October decision
 - Eastern Sierra Council of Governments supportive in hopes that both counties will receive the positions; Coordinate them together through the Council
 - Job description deals directly with Fire Safe Councils in terms of coordination and information sharing
 - If beneficial, MBFSC can write letter in support (Robbie)
 - Would be good; Deal directly with Mono County Administrative Officer (CAO) or Assistant CAO (Bob)
- Regional FSC meeting on 27 August (Robbie)

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- All FSCs with representative from the CA Fire Safe Council
 - Will give update at next meeting
- Next meeting to be held on 15 September 2021 at 5pm